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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

Communications Assistance for  
Law Enforcement Act

Revenue Estimates of  
Five Manufacturers

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CC Docket No. 97-213

Comments of MCI WorldCom, Inc.

MCI WorldCom, Inc. ("MCI WorldCom") files these comments in response to the Petition for Reconsideration filed March 31, 1999 by the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("DOJ/FBI") of the Order from the Office of Engineering and Technology ("OET"), of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"), released in this proceeding on March 2, 1999. That Order granted the request of five telecommunications equipment manufacturers for confidential treatment of cost data submitted in the proceeding, Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act ("Act" or "CALEA"), CC Docket No. 97-213.

MCI WorldCom opposes the petition for reconsideration filed by the DOJ/FBI for the following reasons. The basic relief that the DOJ/FBI seek, is that the Commission not consider cost data on the public record. Such relief would mean that the Commission would not have any information about the implementation costs of CALEA. Under Section 107(b) of the Act, the Commission may be petitioned to establish by rule, technical requirements or standards that "(1) meet the assistance capability requirements

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of the section 103 by cost effective methods.” Not one, but three, entities have petitioned the Commission to set standards. The Commission must obtain cost data to perform its responsibilities under the Act.

The DOJ/FBI objection’s to the confidential treatment accorded by the Commission to the cost data filed by the five manufacturers rings hollow when the DOJ/FBI itself obtained cost information from vendors which it did not share with the industry or even with the Commission.

Further, the DOJ/FBI’s objection to the lack of a common pool of cost knowledge with the Commission is immaterial.<sup>1</sup> The DOJ/FBI is not the decision-making agency. The relevant information in this docket is the information before the Commission.

In the future, MCI WorldCom urges that any additional cost information disclosed be made available to all users on similar terms. Both the Commission and the DOJ/FBI should adhere to this guideline. If the DOJ/FBI gets more information pursuant

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<sup>1</sup> DOJ/FBI, Petition for Reconsideration, filed March 31, 1999, page 7.

to a confidentiality agreement, that cost data must be made available to interested parties under a similar confidentiality agreement.

For these reasons, MCI WorldCom urges the Commission to disregard the petition for reconsideration filed by the DOJ/FBI.

Respectfully submitted,

MCI WorldCom, Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne F. La Lena".

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June 23, 1999

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I, Barbara Nowlin, do hereby certify that on this 23th day of June, 1999, copies of the foregoing Comments of MCIWorldCom, Inc. were served on each of the following persons:

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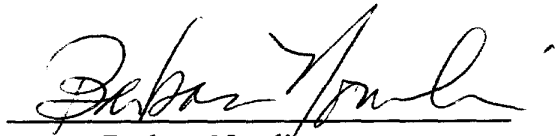
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